

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 1694

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OCLR,BB

SUBJ: US NAVY SHIP VISIT

REFS: (A) BRIDGETOWN 618; (B) STATE 217304

1. WE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF REFTEL (B) WHICH ADVISES
INABILITY OF US NAVY TO ARRANGE VISIT DURING BARBADOS' 10TH
ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, NOVEMBER 30, AND
PROPOSES ALTERNATIVE VISIT OF NOV. 16-18, BY USS DAVIS (DD937).

2. WHILE THE VESSEL IS ADEQUATE, AND THE VISIT WOULD BE
WELCOMED, I HAVE TO VIEW THE EXERCISE AS MERELY GOING THROUGH
THE MOTION RATHER THAN STRIVING TO GAIN THE MAXIMUM
IMPACT, OR MAKE THE GREATEST IMPRESSION. EFFECTIVE THIS DATE,
WE HAVE A NEW GOVERNMENT IN POWER, THE FIRST SINCE INDEPENDENCE.
SHORTLY, AS IN ANTIGUA, WE MUST RESPOND TO POTENTIAL
NEGOTIATIONS FOR RENEWAL OF THE NAVAL FACILITY AGREEMENT
HERE. LASTLY, HAVING JUST SEEN THE PARADE OF TALL SHIPS
FOR OUR US CELEBRATIONS, IT JUST APPEARS UNSEEMLY FOR OUR
GREAT NATION TO BE UNBENDING IN SIGNIFICANTLY HONORING
THE FOREMOST SISTER DEMOCRATIC NATION IN THE HEMISPHERE.

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3. BEFORE I AM FORCED TO SWALLOW THE DATES OFFERED, WITH

NO ALTERNATIVE, KINDLY REVIEW OTHER POSSIBILITIES TO SEE
IF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CAN MAKE A BETTER SHOW OF
PARTICIPATING IN THE NOVEMBER 30 CELEBRATIONS OF BARBADOS'
TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE. IN HONORING THEM WE
EQUALLY HONOR DEMOCRACY, AND OURSELVES.

BRITTON

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